



A.G. on Ag  
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An Update from Secretary Kawamura

**November 2006: Governor's Reelection, SJ Valley Partnership,  
Mexico Trade Mission, State Food Drive and the Passing of a CDFA Colleague**

**Dear Friends,**

**It is with great joy that I congratulate Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on his reelection as Governor of California.** As a champion for agriculture, he has accomplished many important feats for our industry, and guided by his leadership we have much to look forward to in the coming years.

Further cementing his commitment to agriculture in our state, on Tuesday, November 28, 2006, the governor signed an [Executive Order to extend the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley](#). The work of this partnership has brought economic development, environmental protection and increased state funding for transportation projects to this critical area. The San Joaquin Valley is the top agricultural production region in the state and many of these reforms will help ensure that this important industry thrives in the years ahead.



Secretary Kawamura speaks with the American media in Mexico. Photo: R. Tse / CDFA

Earlier this month, I had the great pleasure to accompany Governor Schwarzenegger on his [trade mission to Mexico](#). The trip consisted of a whirlwind of events, including visits to several supermarkets featuring California agricultural products in Mexico City and Monterrey. Our supermarket visits generated a lot of positive press coverage for California agriculture. We also attended a screening of the famous Chef Lulu Pedraza's cooking show, "Sabrosas Conversaciones" (Tasteful Conversations). Governor Schwarzenegger helped Chef Lulu prepare a salad using products grown in California. Mexico imported \$581 million of California's agricultural products last year.

The Governor had meetings with President Vicente Fox and the Secretary of Agriculture of the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, Guillermo Zambrano Lozano. The spotlight on California agriculture during this trade mission reminds us both of its amazing diversity and how important our agricultural production is to our state, the nation and many other countries. California helps feed the world.

The [California State Employees' Food Drive](#) is in full swing this month. CDFA hosts this effort every year. I encourage you to be generous with food donations during the holidays for those less fortunate. A good resource to find out more about local and regional hunger relief organizations is the [California Emergency Foodlink](#). And I would like to recognize the [Farmers' Rice Cooperative](#) in West Sacramento for their participation in the food drive. For years, the co-op has sold bags of rice to CDFA employees for donation to the food drive. This year, they have opened this opportunity to all state employees.

There is opportunity for other commodity groups to participate in the food drive, too. Nutritious and non-perishable commodities, such as dried plums, raisins and nuts, are healthy foods that are also needed. If you are interested in participating in the food drive by donating, please contact [Nancy Lungren](#), 2006 Statewide Food Drive Coordinator.



It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of one of our long-time friends and colleagues, Mike Hetrick. He passed away suddenly on November 25, 2006. Our condolences to his wife, Melinda K. Morris and children Angela and John. A decorated Vietnam veteran, Mike was a CDFA employee for more than 24 years. His family will be holding private services.

A memorial service will be held to honor the memory of Mike on Friday, December 1, 2006, at 1:30 P.M. in the CDFA main auditorium, 1220 N Street, Sacramento.

The family has asked that donations go to the [America Diabetes Association](#).



Mike Hetrick, Interim Chief Technology Officer, CDFA. Photo: CDFA

As always, thank you for your support. Feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns. I look forward to the new year and the promising opportunities for agriculture it presents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.G. Kawamura'.

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